

***SUMMARY of
REAL-TIME FISH MONITORING ACTIVITIES***
August 17, 1995

- Real-time (a.k.a. near real-time) monitoring was conducted by the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP) in May and June of 1995 to assess the feasibility of protecting chinook salmon, delta smelt, splittail, longfin smelt and other species from the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) operations in the south Delta.
- "Real-time" means that data obtained in the field is provided as information to the CALFED Operations group within a 48 hour period.
- The objective of real-time monitoring is to reduce the overall losses of fish entrained at Project facilities (at no net water supply cost to the SWP or CVP) by monitoring targeted species to determine whether or not they are in an established zone of influence. Thus, real-time monitoring stations serve as an early warning system for targeted species of fish.
- Due to unusually wet weather conditions in 1995 and resultant high and sustained Delta outflows, only splittail and hatchery released chinook salmon were caught in sufficient numbers to help determine if real-time monitoring works for the purposes intended. The majority of other species of interest were widely distributed throughout the estuary.
- The IEP used 15 boats and 45 people on 10 sampling locations in the lower Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and Delta on a daily basis for a two month period to conduct this program. The estimated total direct costs over the two month period is \$400,000.
- Funding for the program came from the operating budgets of the agencies involved (USFWS, DFG, USBR and DWR). In addition, financial and technical assistance was received from contractors from the SWP and CVP, California Urban Water Agencies, and Delta and San Joaquin River tributary agencies.
- A report assessing the success of this year's program will be available in draft form by about August 25. The report will also contain a summary of indirect costs (work not conducted or delayed as a result of this program), and specific recommendations for future work. A final report is expected in September.
- Current plans call for conducting a real-time monitoring program for 3-4 months in 1996. The period of interest is March through June.

Winternitz - 8/16/95